Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan is 93.85%, 83.88%, 60.44% and 50.63% respectively.

(c) Water being a State subject, steps to augment ground water resources is to be taken by the concerned State Government. The steps taken by the Union Government to increase ground water level in the country include:—

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories, to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iii) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies in artificial recharge of ground water in some 'Over-exploited' and 'Dark' blocks of the country.

Clearance to Vamshadhara Stage-II Project in Andhra Pradesh

1082. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vamshadhara Stage-II proposal of Andhra Pradesh has been cleared by the Central Water Commission;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) the target for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):(a) to (c)
The reference is presumably to Vamshadhara Project, Phase-I of

Stage-II which has recently been accepted by the Advisory Committee on 31.5.2000 subject to certain conditions. Irrigation being a State subject, such projects are taken up for implementation by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities.

Consensus on the draft of National Water Policy

† 1083. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no consensus have been reached on the draft of National Water Policy;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The draft of revised National Water Policy was placed before the fourth meeting of the National Water Resources Council under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister held on 7th July, 2000 for consideration/adoption. The deliberations established a broad consensus among the states on most of the issues contained in the proposed policy, however, some of the areas of differences were as under:—

(i) Legislation for developing standardized national information system.

(ii) Establishing appropriate River Basin Organisations with statutory powers.

(iii) Water Allocation amongst States, and

(iv) Amendment of Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956.

In order to achieve greater convergence and agreement on these issues, the council has decided for constitution of a Working Group of Ministers of all the States/UTs chaired by Hon'ble Minister of
water Resources

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.